

Hazmat General Warning - There is a radioactive substance risk in parts of the Pilbara, Midwest Gascoyne, Goldfields-Midlands and Perth Metropolitan regions.

The following alert has been issued by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

Please note changes under Extra Information section

Time of issue: 06:19 PM

Date of issue: 27 January 2023

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE RISK in parts of the Pilbara, Midwest Gascoyne, Goldfields-Midlands and Perth Metropolitan regions

There is a radioactive substance risk in parts of the Pilbara, Midwest Gascoyne, Goldfields-Midlands and Perth Metropolitan regions.

A capsule containing a radioactive substance has been lost during transportation from north of Newman to the north-eastern suburbs of Perth. The substance is used within gauges in mining operations. Exposure to this substance could cause radiation burns or radiation sickness. The capsule is small (6mm diameter and 8mm tall), round and silver. Risk to the general community is relatively low, however it is important to be aware of the risks and what to do if you see the capsule.

WHAT TO DO

If you see something that could be this material:

- Stay at least 5 metres away from it.
- Do not touch it.
- Do not put it in a bag.
- Do not put it in your car.
- Report it immediately by calling 13 DFES (13 33 37).

If you have touched the material:

- Seek immediate medical advice from your local health service or visit a hospital emergency department.
- Tell the health service or hospital that you think you have touched the radioactive material.

ROAD CLOSURES AND CONDITIONS

Roads have not been closed.

- Road information may also be available from Main Roads WA by calling 138 138 or visiting travelmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au (<https://travelmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Home/Map>) or by contacting your Local Government Authority.

WHAT FIREFIGHTERS ARE DOING

- DFES is managing the incident assisted by the Department of Health and WA Police.

EXTRA INFORMATION

- The capsule was packaged on 10 January 2023 to be sent to Perth for repair before leaving the site for transport by road between 11 and 14 January 2023. The package holding the capsule arrived in Perth on 16 January and was unloaded and stored in the licensed service provider's secure radiation store. On 25 January, the gauge was unpacked for inspection. Upon opening the package, it was found that the gauge was broken apart with one of the four mounting bolts missing and the source itself and all screws on the gauge also missing. DFES as the Hazard Management Agency were notified on the evening of 25 January by WA Police.

KEEP UP TO DATE

Visit [Emergency WA \(https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/\)](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/), call 13 DFES (13 3337), follow DFES on [Twitter \(https://twitter.com/dfes_wa\)](https://twitter.com/dfes_wa), [Facebook \(Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/dfeswa/\)](https://www.facebook.com/dfeswa/), listen to [ABC Local Radio \(https://reception.abc.net.au/\)](https://reception.abc.net.au/), 6PR, or news bulletins.

During a power outage, your home phone, computer or other electronic devices connected to the NBN will not work. Include a battery powered radio in your emergency kit.

Updates will be issued if further information becomes available.

END

